Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 01926 282018Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5936
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, CA
SUBJECT: COLUMNIST STATES FEDERAL/ONTARIO TORY RELATIONSHIP
IN DIRE STRAIGHTS

1. JONATHAN MANTHORPE, TORONTO STAR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT COLUMNIST, IN HIS JULY 27 COLUMN "THE DAVIS MACHINE TURNS AGAINST JOE CLARK" HELD THAT THE "TENDER" RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PREMIER DAVIS' ONTARIO TORIES AND JOE CLARK'S FEDERAL CONSERVATIVES "HAS NOW ALMOST COMPLETELY BROKEN DOWN."

2. ACCORDING TO MANTHORPE, THE CONFRONTATION CAME AT A MEETING IN TORONTO DURING JULY BETWEEN FEDERAL TORY CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN LOWELL MURRAY, CLARK'S CHIEF OF STAFF WILLIAM NEVILLE AND ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARTY SENIOR ADVISORS ROSS DEGEER, EDWARD GOODMAN AND HUGH SEGAL. "THE CRUX OF THE ONTARIO TORIES' MESSAGE TO MURRAY WAS THAT CLARK SHOULD GET HIS ACT IN ORDER BEFORE HE COULD EXPECT ANY REAL HELP FROM THE DAVIS MACHINE." ACCORDING TO MANTHORPE, SOME ONTARIO TORIES ARE EXASPERATED WITH WHAT THEY BELIEVE ARE POOR CALIBER PEOPLE IN CLARK'S OFFICE AND OTHERS THINK THE FAULT IS WITH CLARK WHOM THEY SEE AS NOT LISTENING TO
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PAGE 02 TORONT 01926 282018Z

REASONABLE ADVISE FROM HIS STAFF. "THE ONTARIO TORIES MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY HAD THEIR OWN PROBLEMS WITH MINORITY GOVERNMENT HERE AND ARE NOT ABOUT TO GIVE THEMSELVES FURTHER TROUBLES BY BECOMING PUBLICLY ASSOCIATED WITH CLARK.."

3. THE COLUMNIST DESCRIBES DAVIS AS BEING VERY CIR-

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

CUMSPECT AS REGARDS CLARK, EVEN IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS
OWN STAFF WHERE HE ALLEGEDLY NEVER SAYS A WORD AGAINST
CLARK. "FROM DAVIS, SILENCE IN SUCH A SITUATION
IS CRITICISM. THE PREMIER WOULD NEVER IN THE PAST HEAR
A WORD SAID AGAINST STANFIELD WITHOUT RUSHING VERBALLY
TO HIS DEFENSE." THE COLUMNIST CONTINUED THAT EVEN DURING
THE RECENT PROVINCIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, DAVIS STAFFERS
WERE CAREFUL TP PLAN THE PREMIER'S VISIT TO OTTAWA SO
THAT HE WOULD NOT BE THERE WHEN CLARK WAS AND A MEETING WOULD NOT
BE NECESSARY.

"THE CURRENT SITUATION IS LARGELY OF CLARK'S MAKING.
WHEN HE BECAME LEADER LAST YEAR HE WAS SO OBSESSED WITH
NOT BEING LABELLED A FRIEND OF "THE BIG BLUE MACHINE,"
THAT HE REJECTED PRACTICALLY ALL OFFERS OF HELP
FROM ONTARIO.

"CLARK ALSO DID SOME STUPID THINGS SUCH AS
SENDING IN A RATHER HEAVY-HANDED ALBERTA MP,
HARVIE ANDRE, TO ORGANIZE ONTARIO AND REFUSING
ONCE TO GO TO A DINNER AT THE ALBANY CLUB, THE TORONTO
TORIES' HOME AWAY FROM HOME, BECAUSE IT DOES NOT
ADMIT WOMEN MEMBERS."

4. COMMENT: MANTHORPE IS HELD BY MOST TO THE BERY
ACCURATE AS CONCERNS ONTARIO POLITICS. HE IS THE
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PAGE 03 TORONT 01926 282018Z

AUTHOR OF THE 1974 BOOK "THE POWER AND THE TORIES --
ONTARIO POLITICS -- 1943 TO THE PRESENT." THE
ALLEGATIONS IN HIS JULY 27 COLUMN REGARDING THE
MEETING BETWEEN DAVIS AND CLARK ADVISORS AND THE DEPTH
OF THE CONFRONTATION ARE NOT SURPRISING AND, IN FACT,
WE HAD BELIEVED SOMETHING OF THIS NATURE MIGHT HAVE
TAKEN PLACE EARLIER. IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED THAT THESE
ARE NOT SIMPLY THE MANIFESTATIONS OF LOCAL PARTY
POLITICS BUT ARE IN FACT AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE
GENERALLY LOW REGARD IN WHICH THE OPPOSITION LEADER
IS HELD BY MOST TORONTONIANS.
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